



# HOME & GARDENS



## Africans Help Plant Color By the Canful

If you would plant color by the canful, take a look at three African natives which thrive in California. The three are agapanthus, gerbera and kniphofia, available in gallon cans at your local nursery.

Agapanthus, the Blue Lily of the Nile, is a terrific performer. Its blue flowers catch the early summer sun and brighten gardens. A bulb, agapanthus is treated like a perennial and left for years until the clumps become too crowded. When this happens, simply lift, divide and replant the clumps.

The agapanthus is easily spotted. From a clump of evergreen strap-like leaves, tall flower stems bear a large round cluster of bright blue flowers. You find an occasional white-flowered variety.

Lily of the Nile is a sun lover. It will bloom in some shade, but care should be taken to insure a half day's sun. Give it good drainage and reasonably fertile soil. Give it regular water during growth and bloom periods.

Kniphofias are hard to pronounce. Call them Red Hot Pokers, any nurseryman will know what you are talking about. Those colorful perennials have undergone considerable improvement. New colors have been added, flower size has been developed to make a most useful border plant. Red Hot Pokers are available in cooler shades of cream and yellow, with combinations of the traditional "red hot" orange.

Try them in the rear of a

sunny border to combine with perennials such as delphinium with a foreground of lower-growing agapanthus.

The contrast of blue with the Poker's variety of shades can be on eye-catching sight.

Kniphofias can be left in the same spot for years. The grass-like clumps of foliage increase in size, but need no division until overgrown. Sun is the preference, with regular water and soil that is not too rich. Where soil is too rich and food too plentiful, kniphofias are all foliage.

Last of our African trio is gerbera, the lovely Transval Daisy, an aristocrat among daisies, a beauty in the individual bloom rather than in a mass of color. Flowers are borne gracefully on top of long, wiry stems, ideal for cutting. Colors run to lovely pastel shades, with a darker red.

Gerberas are susceptible to damage from poor drainage. This, more than anything else, accounts for an occasionally short span of life. Plant them in a slightly raised bed or one in which you know the drainage is good. Another trick is to set plants in the ground so that you don't bury the crown.

As with other African natives mentioned, gerberas like a warm sunny spot. Reasonably rich soil and regular watering by irrigation are also to their liking. As the clumps increase in size, you may lift and divide them. When you do, do it in fall.

## Mums, Carnations Excel As Flowers for Cutting

When it comes to flowers for cutting, it's hard to beat chrysanthemum and carnation. Favorites in the florist trade, they are easy to grow in a sunny backyard.

Most gardeners forget that these beauties should be planted in early spring. Nurserymen offer them as rooted cuttings now.

Of the two, chrysanthemums' color is bright and more suitable for massing. Carnations are more shy. Their beauty lies in individual blooms and in the fragrance of the blooms. You can grow carnations in an isolated garden corner and get full enjoyment of their bouquets.

Chrysanthemums best perform in soil into which manure and a complete commercial fertilizer have been worked before planting. Such initial nourishment should be supplemented regularly through the growing season. Nurserymen recommend feeding with liquid fish, supplemented by a complete fertilizer. Feed them about every three

weeks. A prime requisite is water. Chrysanthemum plants should be kept moist. Drought will check growth and harden the wood, which makes additional growth unsatisfactory. Keep young plants succulent and lush, the way to keep them that way is by watering.

Where massed color is the primary goal, new top growth is kept pinched back rather severely, to promote side-branching for bushier plants and more bloom. For cut flowers, terminal growth develops after pinching back in early summer and side growth is discouraged, so that the plant's energy produces long-stemmed, large blooms. Stake these, so they won't topple.

Mums come large, exhibition types on small pompon varieties. For garden use, you can hardly do better than to plant the cushion mums, which give masses of color. Regular varieties start bloom in late September and October.

The carnation is handled much the same as chrysanthemums. They are seldom used for garden display, and cultural practice is aimed at developing long-stemmed blooms for cutting. As with mums, pinch out side growth and nip the innumerable buds lower on the plant. Direct plant energy into producing the biggest and showiest blooms possible.

Carnations do best in well-drained, reasonably rich soil with regular watering through growth-bloom cycle. Plant in full sun, but give them a bit of shade when you live where summer sun is especially intense. Plants will grow in hottest sun, but flowers don't develop so well.

After young plants have been set out, wait until they start growing, then pinch out the top to encourage branching and sturdier plants. After that, let them grow on, encouraging terminal growth. Feed once a month with a commercial fertilizer.

A wide selection and combinations of color is available in nurseries.



OUR ANCESTORS probably never dreamed a TV might be housed in the cabinet section of a dry sink. Devotees of Americana probably will thoroughly appreciate the opportunity of this mellow maple adaptation.

## Mollis Hybrids Splash Colors

The Mollis Hybrid, deciduous azalea, breaks out with a rush of bloom that smothers the plants before any leaves begin to arrive.

These will make good sized shrubs in time and provide gardeners who grow them with brilliant splashes of color. They are colorful in fall, too, when the leaves turn to crimson and orange before dropping off. Plant them where you won't mind their winter bareness.

Rhododendrons are big brothers (or big cousins) of the azaleas and if you compare their blooms, you will easily note the similarities. These are less planted in Southern California than in the north, but there are some fine specimens to be found in and about Los Angeles county. They are ideally suited to climates around San Francisco Bay and this is where they get their major play in the state.

They love growing under oaks, and mature plantings will actually grow right up into the oak trees, giving the illusion that the oaks are blooming.

Be they azaleas or rhododendrons, they have the same liking for a rich, acid soil, plenty of moisture at the roots and overhead, too, and regular feeding.

Ask your nurseryman to recommend a good plant food or foods. Work plenty of leaf mold into the soil at planting with peat moss and leaf mold to conserve moisture and to increase acidity in the soil.

## Gardening Tips For April

Plant hydrangeas for lavish summer display. Plant fuchsias now. Try some of the hanging types in overhead containers.

Feed lawns now and go after any lawn weeds with a chemical control. Your nurseryman will recommend one.

Plant day lilies this month for late spring and early summer bloom.

Plant trigrilla bulbs for mid-summer bloom. The triangular, spotted blooms are real attractions in July and August.

**THE SABBATH**  
Sunday is the golden clasp that binds together the volume of the week.  
—Henry W. Longfellow



SIMPLE DECORATING TRICKS can do wonders to add a feeling of space to problem rooms. Here, for example, a mirrored wall seemingly doubles the area by reflecting the fireplace, window and other features in the room. Accenting horizontal lines with long, low sofas, tables or rectangular framed mirrors will make a wall look longer, while similar emphasis on vertical highlights will shorten a wall and make a low ceiling appear higher.

## Court of Honor For Troop 211 Of Boy Scouts

By George Peabody III  
On the evening of the 19th of March, Troop 211 of Torrance, sponsored by Howard Wood School, held its Court of Honor.

The program opened by the induction of Tenderfoot Scouts into the Troop, including Garland Dolton, Steven Holder, Mike and Gary Purviance, and Richard Van Dalsem. The boys were presented with neckerchiefs and Tenderfoot badges by Scoutmaster Pat Patterson, who conducted the program.

Terry Cook and John Rowles were awarded Assistant Patrol Leaders badges. Patrol Leaders badges were presented to Jerry

Jackson and Rick Golightly. Terry Cook, Ronnie Gray, John Rowles and Steven Corey were given Second Class Scout badges. Bugler badges went to Gary Purviance and John Rowles.

Scribe and Quartermaster badges were awarded to Jerry Jackson. A Senior Assistant Patrol Leader's badge was given to Rick Golightly and Jerry Strouse.

George Peabody was awarded his Assistant Scoutmaster's badge. The First Aid Merit badge was given to Rick Golightly and Jerry Jackson.

A Two-Year pin was given to Jerry Jackson. One Year pins were awarded to Terry Cook, Jerry Jackson, Ronnie Gray and Dean Watson.

For work above and beyond the call of duty at a past snow camp, which consisted of repairs to a sink resulting from over excited Scouts, fathers John Rowles and Fred Wise were awarded a Badge of Merit in Plumbing.

The Troop's Flying Eagle Patrol presented John Schackle with a troop neckerchief in remembrance of Troop 211. John joined our

Ideas for Living . . .

## A FAMILY IN FOCUS

Are you a handyman or handy homemaker who has been faced with an architectural, decorating, or gardening problem which you have licked?

Have your ideas for a better way of making do with what you have paid off in more comfortable or attractive living?

Have you tackled your problem with a great deal of thought, a barrel of elbow grease, and a dash of cash?

If you have had a house-and-garden experience along the do-it-yourself line and are willing to share results with our readers, The Press

is interested in the achievements of you and your family.

Our Home and Garden Editor hopes to run an article each week telling in words and pictures of a local family who has made a home more liveable, if our editor chooses to focus on your family, our photographer will visit your home to take pictures of what you have done.

If you would like to share do-it-yourself achievements—large or small—write the Home and Garden Editor, The Press, 3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, and tell us about your experiences.

Thoughts for Lent . . .

## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

By THOMAS JEFFERSON  
April 11, 1823

I hold that when we take a view of the universe, in its parts, general or particular, it is impossible for the human mind not to perceive and feel a conviction of design, co-ordinate skill, and indefinite power in every atom of its composition.

The movements of the heavenly bodies, so exactly held in their course by the balance of the centrifugal and centripetal forces . . .

The structure of our earth itself, with its distribution of lands, waters and atmosphere . . .

Animal and vegetable bodies, examined in all their minutest particles . . .

Insects, mere atoms of life, yet as perfectly organized as man or mammoth. The mineral substances, their generation and uses . . .

It is impossible, I say, for the human mind not to believe that there is in all this, design, cause and effect, up to an ultimate cause, a fabricator of all things from matter and motion, their preserver and regulator while permitted to exist in their present forms, and their regeneration into new and other forms.

These are just a few proofs of the necessity of a superintending power to maintain the universe in its course and order.

Stars, well known, have disappeared, new ones have come into view; comets, in their incalculable courses, may run of suns and planets, and require renovation under other laws . . .

Certain races of animals are becoming extinct; and were there no restoring power, all existences might extinguish successively, one by one, until all should be

reduced to a shapeless chaos.

So irresistible are these evidences of an intelligent and powerful agent, that, of the infinite numbers of men who have existed through all time, they have believed, in the proportion of a million at least to one, in the hypothesis of an eternal pre-existence of a Creator, rather than in that of a self-existent universe.

Surely this unanimous sentiment renders this more probable, than that of the few in the other hypothesis.

Some early Christians, indeed, have believed in the co-eternal pre-existence of both the Creator and the world, without changing their relation of cause and effect.

## Garden Tips For April

Renovate old lawns and seed new ones this month. Be sure you keep newly-sewn seed moist at all times.

Plant marguerites for masses of yellow bloom in summer. They are also available in pink and white forms.

Set tomato plants out now. Be sure you get a variety recommended by your local nurseryman.

Shop for rhododendrons while they are in bloom.

Plant fuchsias this month for summer bloom.

## DRY FEET

If you plan on converting a basement into a playroom, you may wish to install a wood floor. If you have a cement floor, this will give you a nailing surface for west coast hemlock or Douglas fir flooring, ideal for a room like this, and low cost.

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